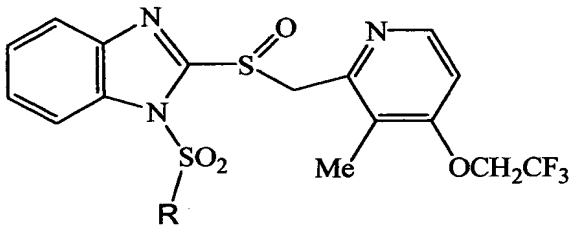
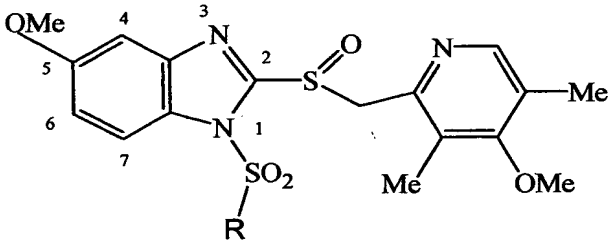
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

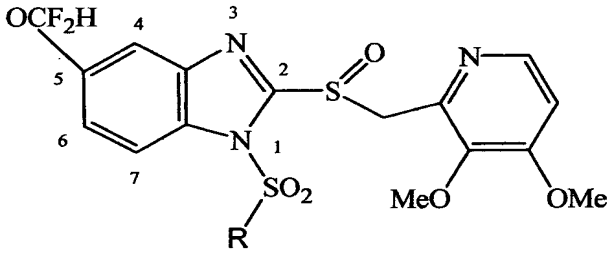
1. A compound of **Formula 1**, **Formula 2**, **Formula 3** or of **Formula 4**



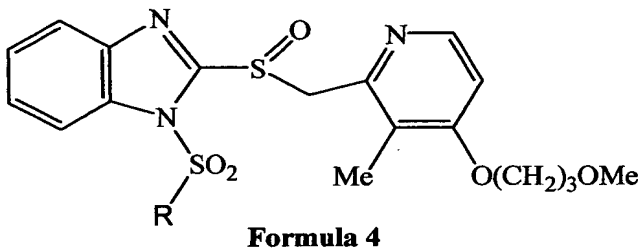
Formula 1



Formula 2



Formula 3

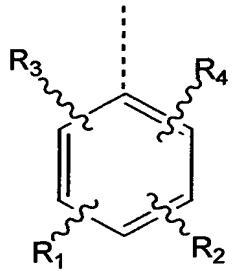


Formula 4

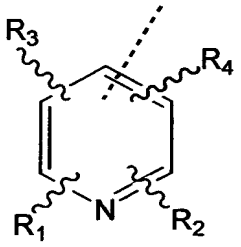
or isomers of the compounds of **Formulas 2** and **3** where the OCH_3, and HF_2CO groups, respectively are linked to the 6 position of the benzimidazole ring, and

wherein **R** represents the groups selected from Formulas (i) through (viii);

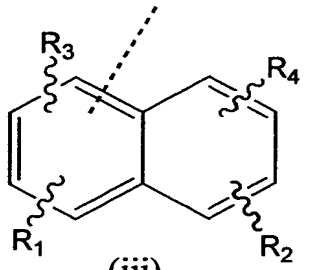
the dashed line represents the bond connecting the **R** group with the SO_2 group,



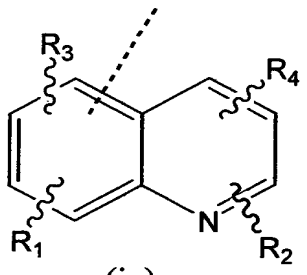
(i)



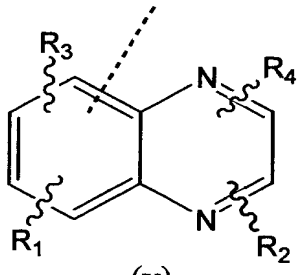
(ii)



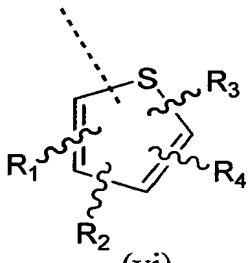
(iii)



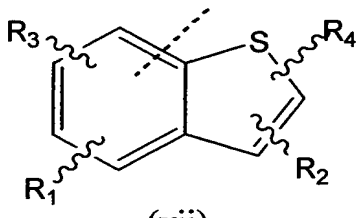
(iv)



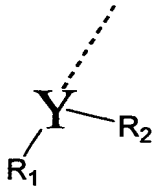
(v)



(vi)



(vii)



(viii)

Y is a straight chained or branch-chained disubstituted alkyl group of 1 to 8 carbons, or **Y** is N;

$\mathbf{R_1}$ and $\mathbf{R_2}$ independently are H, a straight chained or branch-chained di- or trisubstituted alkyl group of 1 to 12 carbons including 1 or two $\mathbf{R_5}$ groups, or a straight chained or branch-chained saturated hydrocarbon skeleton having no more than 12 carbons including 1 or two $\mathbf{R_5}$ groups and optionally further including one to three **X** groups where **X** is independently selected from the group consisting of –O-, -S-, -N$\mathbf{R_6}$-, -NHCO-, -CONH-, -CONHCO-, -COO-, –OCO- and a disubstituted phenyl group which can optionally be substituted with one or two halogen atoms or with one or two $\mathbf{R_3}$ groups; or the $\mathbf{R_5}$ group is directly attached without an intervening $\mathbf{R_1}$ or $\mathbf{R_2}$ group to the aromatic or heteroaromatic ring or to the **Y** group of formulas **(i)** through **(viii)**;
$\mathbf{R_3}$ and $\mathbf{R_4}$ independently are H, alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;
$\mathbf{R_5}$ is independently H, COOH or a tetrazole moiety;
$\mathbf{R_6}$ is H or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;
with the provisos that
at least one the $\mathbf{R_1}$ and $\mathbf{R_2}$ groups is not H, and
at least one $\mathbf{R_5}$ is not H and no more than two $\mathbf{R_5}$ groups are COOH or tetrazole whereby the compound includes at least one but no more than two COOH or tetrazole groups;
when **Y** is -N then neither of the $\mathbf{R_1}$ and $\mathbf{R_2}$ groups is H,
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

2. A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 1**.

3. A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 2**.

4. A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 3**.

5. A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 4**.

6. A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where $\mathbf{R_5}$ is independently selected from H and COOH, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

7. A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where the formula includes at least one **X** group.

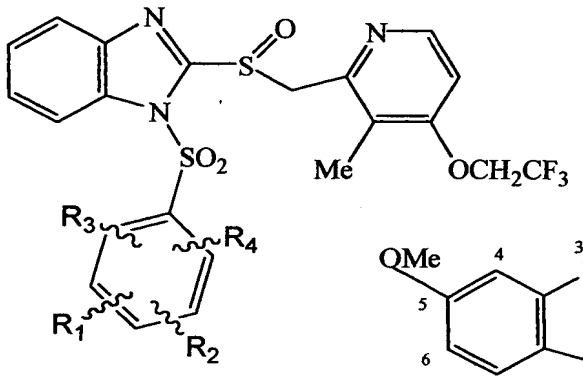
8. A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where at least one **X** is O.

9. A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where at least one **X** is CONH.

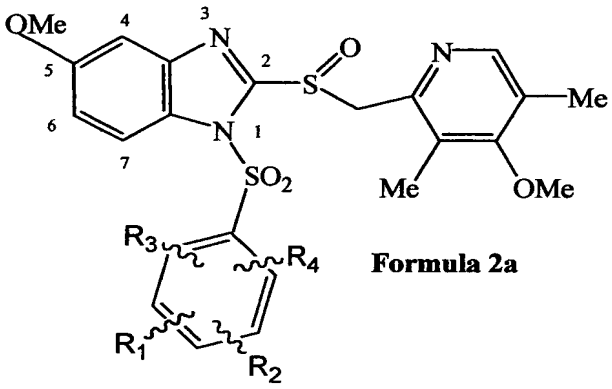
9. A compound in accordance with Claim 1 having two $\mathbf{R_5}$ groups which represent COOH, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

10. A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where **R** represents **formula (i)**.

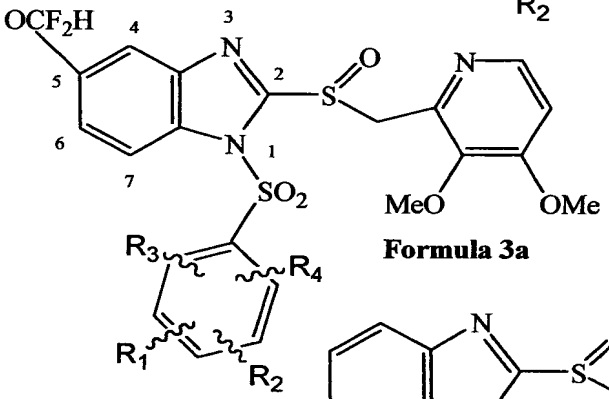
11. A compound of **Formula 1a**, **Formula 2a**, **Formula 3a** or of **Formula 4a**



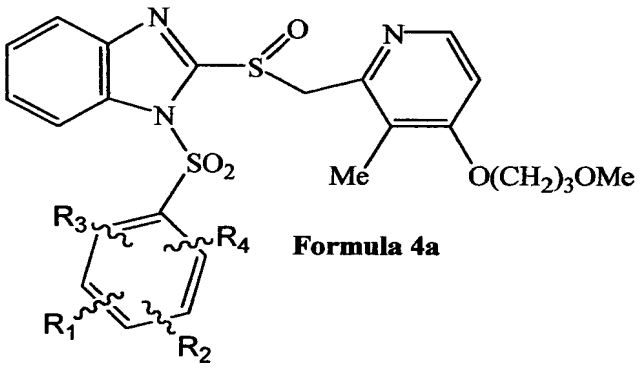
Formula 1a



Formula 2a



Formula 3a



Formula 4a

or isomers of the compounds of **Formulas 2a** and **3a** where the OCH_3, and HF_2CO groups, respectively are linked to the 6 position of the benzimidazole ring,

R_1 and R_2 independently are H, a straight chained or branch-chained di- or trisubstituted alkyl group of 1 to 12 carbons including 1 or two R_5 groups, or a straight chained or branch-chained saturated hydrocarbon skeleton having no more than 12 carbons including 1 or two R_5 groups and optionally further including one to three **X** groups where **X** is independently selected from the group consisting of –O-, -S-, -NR_6-, -NHCO-, -CONH-, -CONHCO-, -COO-, –OCO- and a disubstituted phenyl group which can optionally be substituted with one or two halogen atoms or with one or two R_3 groups; or the R_5 group is directly attached without an intervening R_1 or R_2 group to the aromatic or heteroaromatic ring or to the **Y** group of formulas **(i)** through **(viii)**;

R_3 and R_4 independently are H, alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;

R_5 is independently H or COOH;

R_6 is H or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;

with the provisos that

at least one the R_1 and R_2 groups is not H, and

at least one R_5 is not H and no more than two R_5 groups are COOH whereby the compound includes at least one but no more than two COOH groups;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

12. A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has **Formula 1a**.

13. A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has **Formula 2a**.

14. A compound in accordance with Claim 13 where the CH_3O group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

15. A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has **Formula 3a**.

16. A compound in accordance with Claim 13 where the HF_2CO group

is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

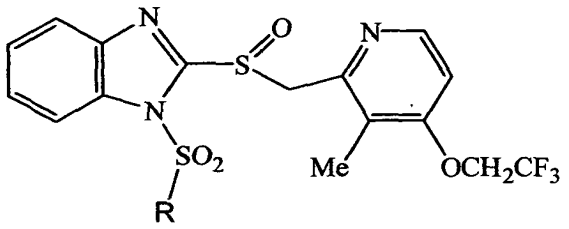
17. A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has **Formula 4a**.

18. A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that includes only one COOH group, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

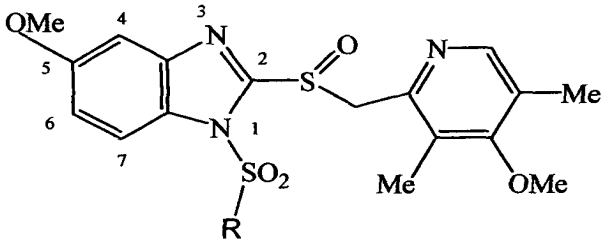
19. A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that includes only two COOH groups, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

20. A compound in accordance with Claim 11 where $\mathbf{R}_2$, $\mathbf{R}_3$ and $\mathbf{R}_4$ are hydrogen and $\mathbf{R}_1$ is OCH_2COOH attached in the 4 position on the phenyl ring relatiove to the sulfonyl group, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

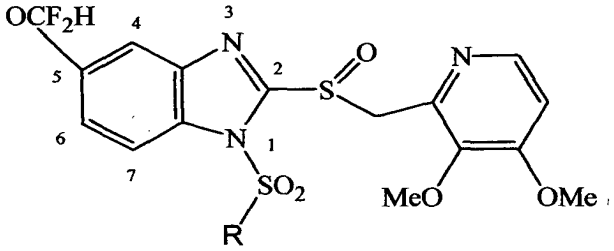
21. A compound of **Formula 1**, **Formula 2**, **Formula 3** or of **Formula 4**



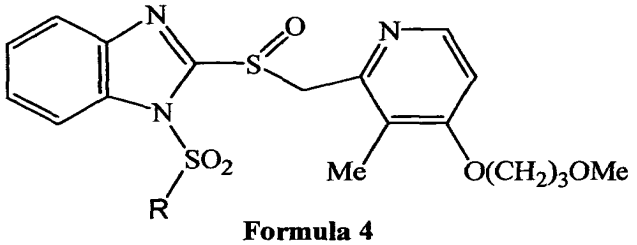
Formula 1



Formula 2



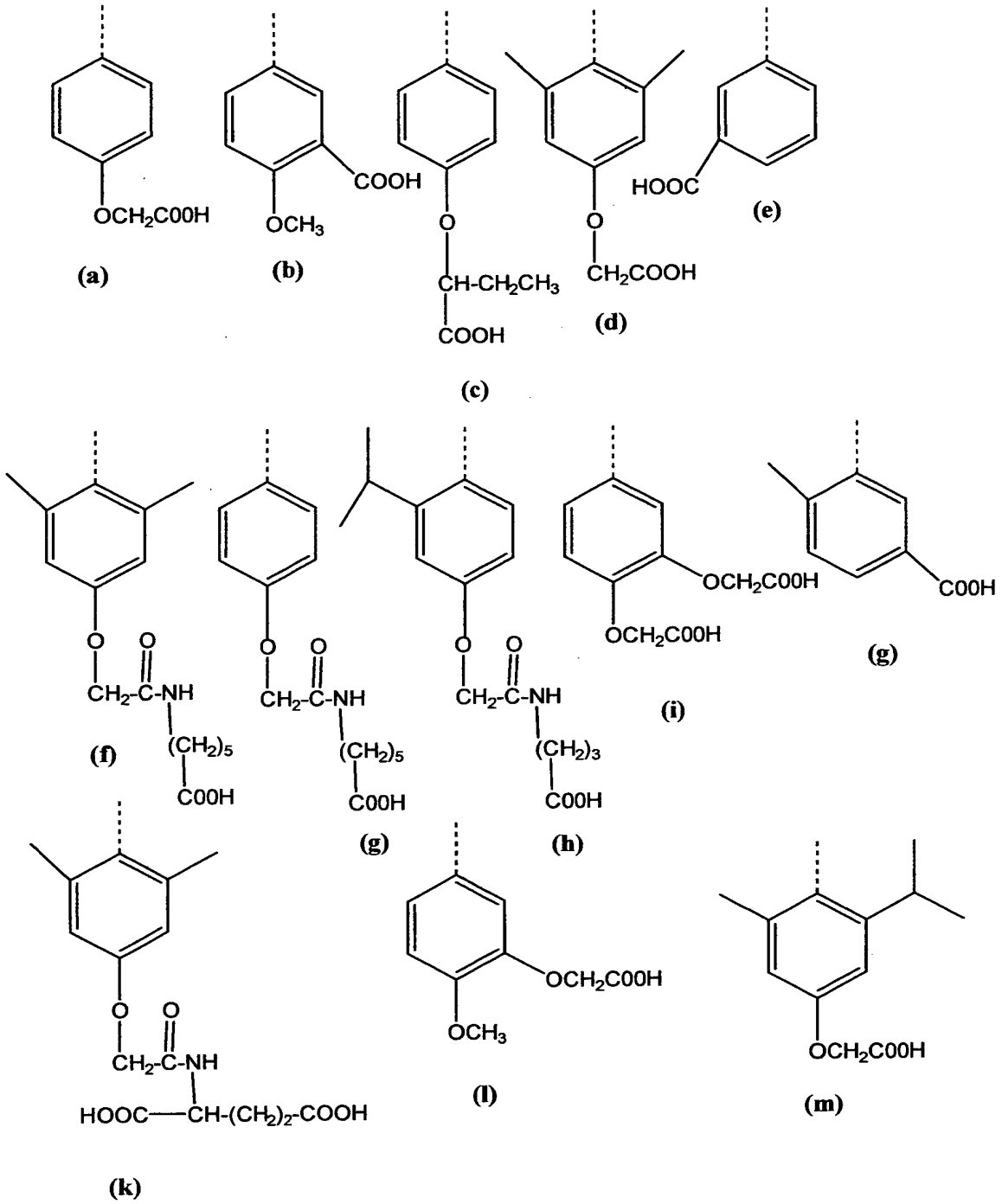
Formula 3



Formula 4

or isomers of the compounds of **Formulas 2** and **3** where the OCH_3, and HF_2CO groups, respectively are linked to the 6 position of the benzimidazole ring, and

wherein **R** represents the groups selected from **Formulas (a)** through **(s)**, the dashed line represents the bond connecting the **R** group with the SO_2 group,


OCH2C00H
(a)
COOH
OCH3
(b)
O
CH-CH2CH3
COOH
(c)
O
CH2COOH
(d)
HOOC
(e)
O
O
CH2-C-NH
(CH2)5
C00H
(f)
(CH2)5
C00H
(g)
(CH2)3
C00H
(h)
OCH2C00H
OCH2C00H
(i)
C00H
(g)
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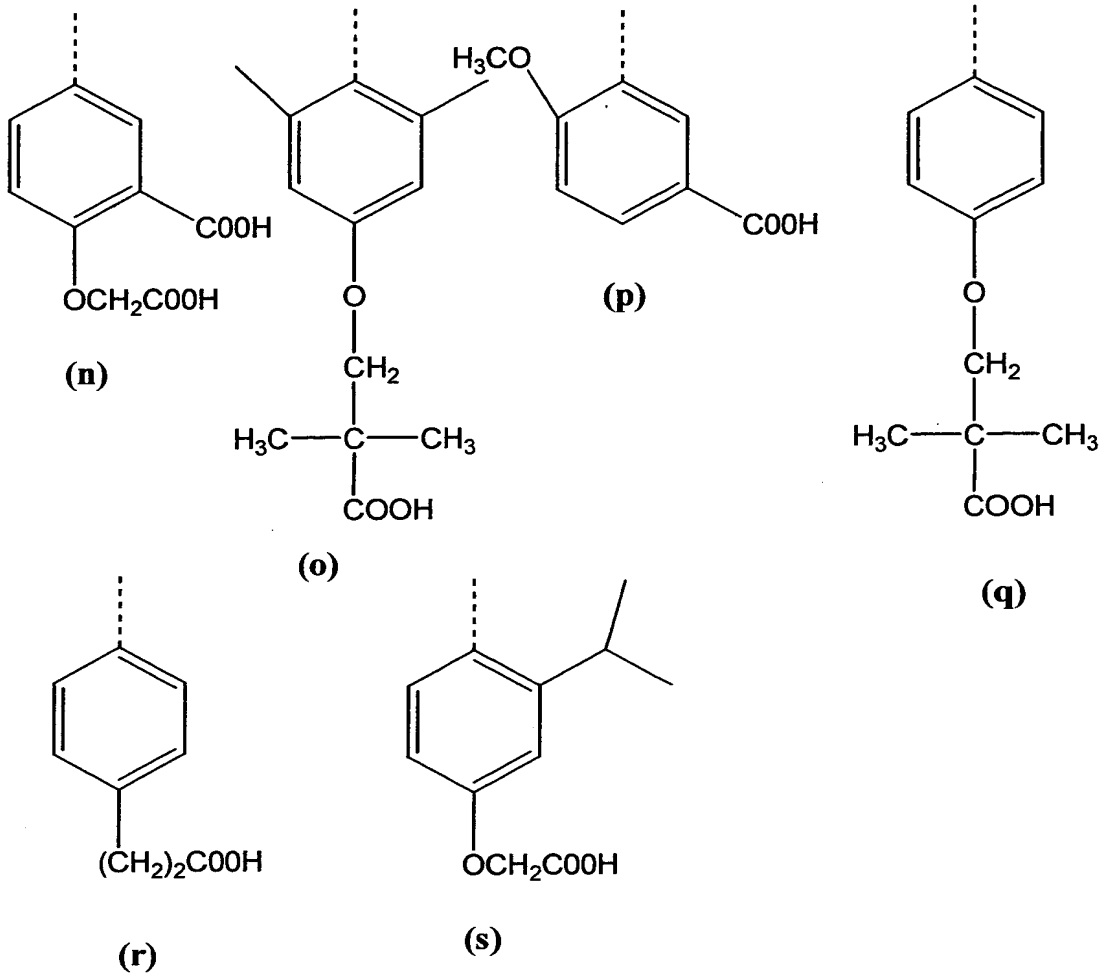
(k)
OCH2C00H
OCH3
(l)
OCH2C00H
(m)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

22. A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of **Formula 1**.

23. A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of **Formula 2**.

24. A compound in accordance with Claim 23 where the CH_3O group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

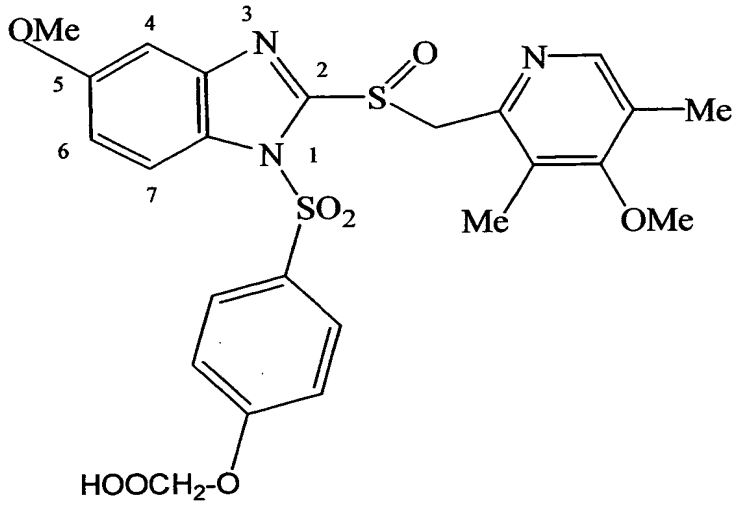
25. A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of **Formula 3**.

26. A compound in accordance with Claim 25 where the HF_2O group is

in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

27. A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of **Formula 4**.

28. A compound in accordance with Claim 21 that has the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

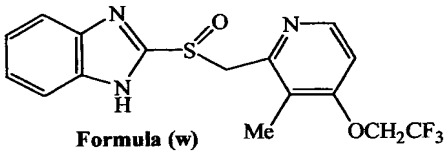
29. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 1.

30. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 11.

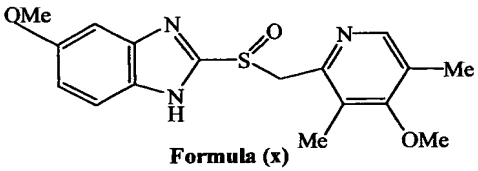
31. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 21.

32. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 28.

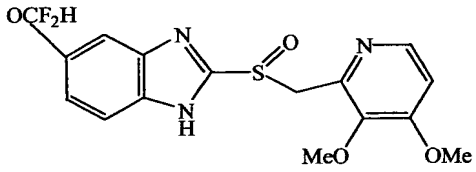
33. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 1, 11, 21 or 28 and a proton pump inhibitor drug selected from the groups consisting of the formulas **(w), (x) (y)** and **(z)**



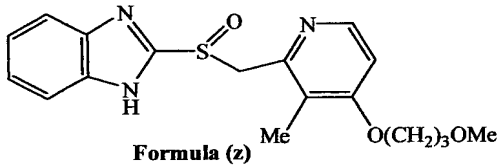
Formula (w)



Formula (x)



Formula (y)



Formula (z)